



TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
December 13, 2019 1500 Update

Incident Management Objectives:

Objective 1: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 4: Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

Objective 5: Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the TPC facility.

Objective 6: Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the TPC facility.

Objective 7: Maintain open communication with Regional management.

Incident Overview:

On November 27, 2019, a report was received from the National Response Center about an explosion at a facility in Port Neches, TX.

A second explosion occurred at approximately 1400 on November 27, 2019. Residents within a four-mile radius of the site were ordered to evacuate. The evacuation was lifted at 1000 on November 29, 2019.

Executive Overview:

- Starting on December 12, 2019, Unified Command will operate on a 48-hour operational period.
- Schools in Port Neches-Groves ISD continue to remain open. Air monitoring teams from TPC (CTEH), TCEQ, and EPA continued to perform community air monitoring in the area of the schools.
- The two low-volume and low-pressure fires reported by TPC on December 6, 2019, continue to burn.
- CTEH has continued air monitoring in the work area for 1,3-butadiene:
 - Conducted 558 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 9, 2019 thru 1430 on December 10, 2019. ten detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.41 ppm.

- Conducted 522 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 10, 2019 thru 1430 on December 11, 2019. eight detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 1.12 ppm.
- Conducted 630 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 11, 2019 thru 1430 on December 12, 2019. Fifteen detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.91 ppm.
- Conducted 630 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 12, 2019 thru 1430 on December 13, 2019. Fifteen detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.91 ppm.
- CTEH has continued air monitoring in the community for 1,3-butadiene:
 - Conducted 2,053 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 9, 2019 thru 1430 on December 10, 2019. eleven detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.13 ppm.
 - Conducted 1,965 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 10, 2019 thru 1430 on December 11, 2019. ten detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.40 ppm.
 - Conducted 2,256 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 11, 2019 thru 1430 on December 12, 2019. Four detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.5 ppm.
 - Conducted 2,256 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 12, 2019 thru 1430 on December 13, 2019. Four detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.5 ppm.
- EPA continued community handheld air monitoring from December 9, 2019 thru December 13, 2019. No concentrations above the action level have been detected in the community since December 5, 2019.
- ASPECT was stood down on the evening of December 9, 2019 after conducting satisfactory support performing fly-overs of the site.
- EPA continued daily surface water sampling from December 9, 2019 thru December 12, 2019. EPA collected 5 surface water samples in the affected canal up to the Neches River and 1 surface water sample upstream of the incident.
- On December 9, 2019, TPC provided their first evaluation of on-site tanks status for each tank on the Site.
- TPC continues responding to reports to the hotline for recovering debris from the explosions. To date, TPC reports approximately 72 homes have had the debris removed and sampled.
- The ATSDR team demobilized on December 11, 2019 after providing satisfactory support through engaging local health officials and addressing questions on human-health related concerns.
- On December 11, 2019, Unified Command approved the Environmental Assessment Reduction Plan.
- On December 11, 2019, Unified Command approved the Preliminary Data Summary for the Reduction of Air Monitoring and Sampling Activities Plan.
- As of December 12, 2019, there have been no wildlife hotline calls for 120 hours. Wildlife Response personnel are on call, with no EOC presence since December 9, 2019.
- On December 12, 2019 at 0805, a leak was detected through UAV footage from the relief valve on tank 35.
- On December 12, 2019 at 0843, a leak was detected through UAV footage from the flange on tank 36.

Resources as of 1500 on December 13, 2019

	EPA	Contractors
Port Neches	2	11

Off site	3	7
----------	---	---